

Saturday Magazine.

N^o. 76.

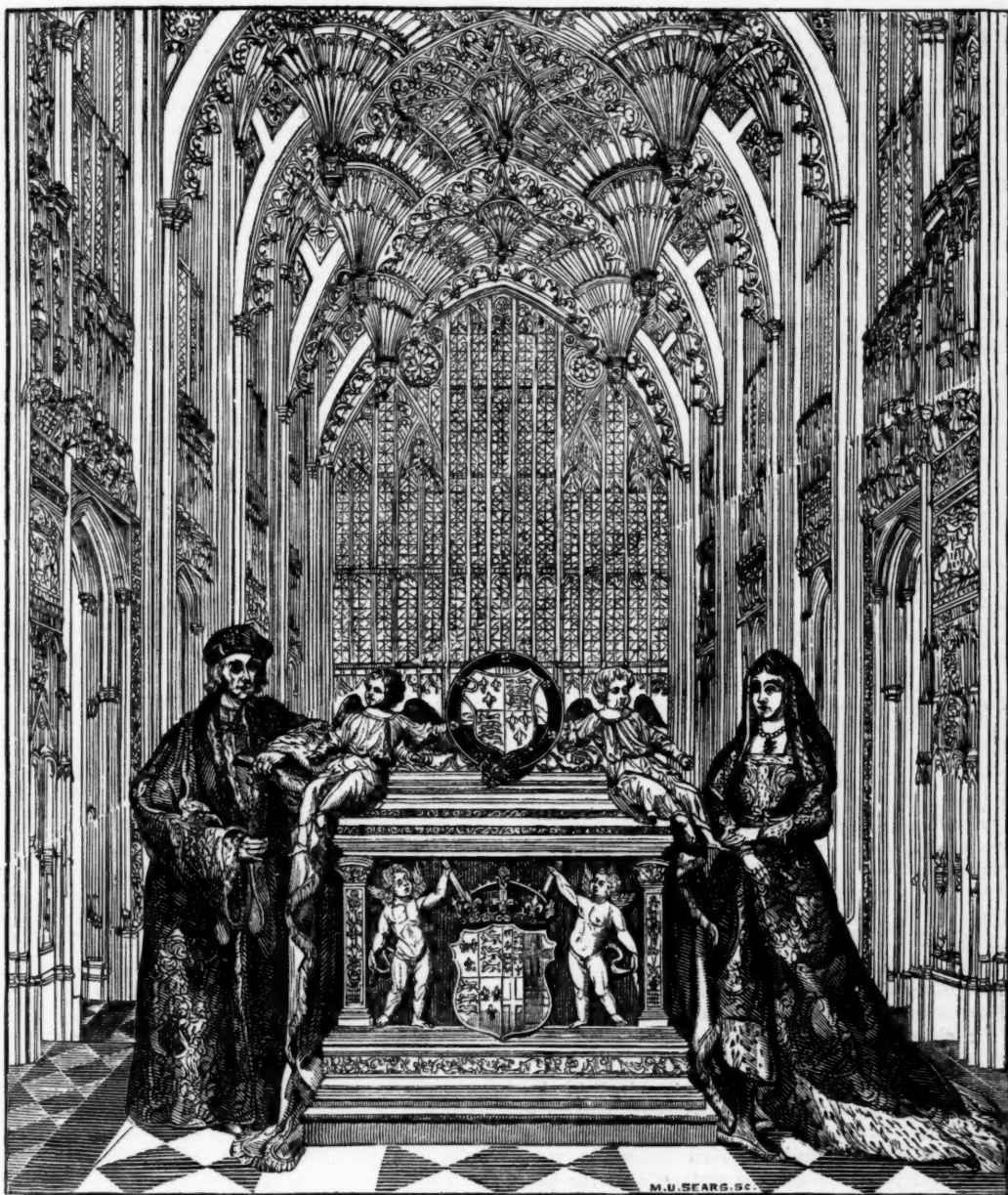
SEPTEMBER

7TH, 1833.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL LITERATURE AND EDUCATION,
APPOINTED BY THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

THE CHAPEL AND TOMB OF HENRY VII. IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.



THE TOMB OF KING HENRY THE SEVENTH.

THIS magnificent Chapel, justly esteemed one of the most beautiful and highly-finished edifices in the world, is situated at the eastern extremity of the abbey-church of Westminster; it is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and stands upon the site of a more ancient chapel dedicated to the same saint, which, with an adjoining tavern, known by the name of the

VOL. III.

'White Rose,' was removed to furnish a site for the present structure, intended by the royal founder, Henry the Seventh, to be a mausoleum for himself and family.

The first stone of this beautiful edifice was laid on the 11th of February, 1503, by Abbot Islip, at the command of the sovereign, and the cost of its

erection amounted to fourteen thousand pounds. It will be seen, at the first glance, that the labour of working the materials must have been immense, and every lover of architecture and sculpture, on viewing this superb edifice, and the tomb of its royal founder, cannot refrain from wonder and admiration.

A minute enumeration of the ornaments of this chapel would greatly exceed our limits; we shall therefore content ourselves with the following brief description.

The chapel is approached by a flight of marble steps, under three arches of unequal width, behind the chapel of St. Edward and the oratory of Henry the Fifth: this porch is one of the most beautiful extant in the pointed style of architecture. It is divided into six compartments, finely sculptured, and enriched with heraldic devices of the Tudor family: four fluted pedestal columns are attached to the piers of the arches, with enriched capitals, on which Henry's supporters, the lion, greyhound and dragon, sit in an erect posture.

The splendid gates of entrance to the nave of the chapel are of framed oak, cased with gilt copper or brass: those in the centre are eleven feet three inches in height, and eight feet three inches in width, containing sixty-eight perforated panels. The side gates are ten feet eight inches in height, and five feet wide, each pair containing twenty-eight panels: they are all ornamented with the same devices; *viz.*, initials of Henry the Seventh, bunches of roses entwined with a crown, fleurs-de-lis, the portcullis with coronet and chain, and the initials H. R. with a coronet &c. These devices are cast in brass, about three eighths of an inch thick, and exhibit a perfect and highly-finished design on both sides.

Through these gates you enter the nave of the chapel: the flood of light pouring in upon its various decorations forms so powerful a contrast with the awful gloom of the entrance porch, that no words can convey an idea of its dazzling effect. The elevation of the roof is grand, and the perforated arch-ribs light and beautiful: the ceiling of stone, with its panelled rays diverging into a thousand graceful figures, is studded with devices and ornaments so brilliant and varied in effect as to appear quite magical; yet so distinct, as, when viewed from either end of the chapel, to produce a magnificent whole; in short it seldom fails to fill the beholder with astonishment and delight.

The canopies over the stalls greatly detract from the beauty of this chapel, and the banners of the Knights of the Bath, suspended from rude iron brackets, entirely hide one of the finest specimens of panel and niche work in the kingdom.

The accompanying view is taken from the east end of the chapel, looking westward, and includes the east end of the Tomb, with the figures of Henry and his queen Elizabeth, in the costume of the period. This engraving is copied, by permission of the Publishers, from COTTINGHAM'S *Elevations, &c. of Henry the Seventh's Chapel*, to which interesting work we are also indebted for the materials of the present article. The figures, which are recumbent upon the tomb, are represented by the artist in an upright position, for the purpose of showing the beauty of the sculpture.

The tomb is principally of black marble; but the figures, bas-reliefs, shields and pilasters, are of copper, gilt. The statues of the king and queen, with the bas-reliefs which decorate the sides, were executed by Pietro Torregiano, a celebrated Italian artist, who contracted with Henry's executors to

complete the tomb, figures, &c., for fifteen hundred pounds (a very large sum in those days); it was finished in the year 1518. The tomb is surrounded by a screen which is a magnificent specimen of casting in brass; its style corresponds with the architecture of the chapel, and it is highly probable that the moulds were made by the same artificers who prepared the models for working the masonry. It has evidently suffered much from wanton spoliation—this the broken ornaments and vacant niches attest; but we trust that the vigilance of the guides will preserve this inimitable work of art from further injury.

The body of the chapel is divided into two parts; the nave occupies four arches on each side, which, previously to the erection of the stalls, communicated with the side-aisles. The chancel is divided from the nave by a bold arch, five feet in depth, crossing from north to south, which adds greatly to the strength and solidity of the building; it is decorated throughout in the most beautiful and elaborate manner: the variety, design, and arrangement of the niches, panelling, armorial bearings, and sculptures in this arch, render it an object of the highest interest to students in ornamental architecture. The great perforated arches of the roof are supported by clustered shafts, springing from the pillars between the side-arches of the nave, each of which is finely ornamented with foliage-points on the under-surface. The interior of the west end is similar to the east end of the porch as far as the horizontal mouldings above the doors, over which is a bold cornice, finished with an open leaf battlement; attached to this cornice are fourteen busts of coronetted angels, which extend across the nave, intermixed with roses, fleurs-de-lis, and portcullises, all having crowns above them.

The statues which adorn the niches exhibit considerable skill in design; and have a strong characteristic expression of countenance; they consist of kings, cardinals, bishops, martyrs, saints, pilgrims, &c., each represented under some particular circumstance recorded in the life or legend.

The windows of this superb edifice were originally filled with the most splendid designs in painted glass: the small lights of the clerestory and the head of the great window, still contain various small figures, such as crosses, crowns, fleurs-de-lis, red and blue mantles, crowns and portcullises, single feathers of the Prince of Wales's crest, crowns and garters, red and white roses, the king's initials, and fragments of the canopies which were over the various saints. One of the original figures in the eastern window is still entire, as well as several of the armorial bearings of the kings of England in the window of the eastern chapel.

For many years, this magnificent structure had been rapidly advancing to a state of decay; this at length attracted the attention of Parliament:—a grant was made to repair the dilapidations, and the whole of the exterior has been restored according to the original plan.

HE who is always his own counsellor, will often have a fool for his client.—HUNTER.

ANY person may raise a cavil, which none but a wise man can answer.

No man lives so ill, as he who forgets that he must ever die.

BROW asked an envious man, that was very sad, "What harm had befallen unto him, or what good had befallen unto another man?"—LORD BACON.

AN ELEPHANT HUNT.

THE following interesting account of the perilous adventures of an Elephant-hunt, near Coutallam, in the district of Tinavelly, in Southern India, has been lately received from a young gentleman, who holds an official situation under the Collector of the district.

On the 2nd of September, 1832, intelligence was brought to the Collector of Tinavelly, that some wild elephants had appeared in the neighbourhood of Coutallam. A hunting-party was immediately formed, and a large number of native hunters were engaged. We left the tents on horseback at half past seven o'clock in the morning, and rode three miles to an open spot, flanked on one side by rice-fields, and on the other by jungle. After waiting some time, Captain B. and myself walked across the rice-fields to the shade of a tree. When here, we heard the trumpet of an Elephant; we rushed across the rice-fields up to our knees in mud, but all in vain, though we came upon the track of one of the animals, and then ran five or six hundred yards into the jungle. After various false alarms, and vain endeavours to discover the objects of our chase, the Collector went into the jungle, and Captain B. and myself into the bed of the stream where we had seen the tracks, and here it was evident the elephants had passed to and fro. Disappointed and impatient, we almost determined to give up the chase and go home, but shots fired just before us, reanimated us, and we proceeded, and found that the Collector had fired twice. Off we went, through forest, over ravine, and through streams, till at last, at the top of a ravine, the elephants were seen. This was a moment of excitement! We were all scattered. The Collector had taken the middle path, Captain B., some huntsmen and myself the left, and other hunters scrambled down that to the right. At this moment, I did not see anything but what I took to be a native hut roofed with leaves, but after advancing a few yards, the huge head of an elephant shaking above the jungle within ten yards of us, burst suddenly upon my view. Captain B. and a hunter were just before me; we all fired at the same instant, and in so direct a line that the percussion cap of my gun hit the hunter, whom I thought, at first, I had shot. This accident, though it proved slight and unimportant, a little unhinged me. The great excitement occasioned by seeing for the first time a wild beast at liberty and in a state of nature, produced a sensation of hope and fear that was intense and indescribable.

The startling appearance of such a huge creature, and our being scattered and separated, created, for an instant, a slight bewilderment, which may be better understood than described. The beast gave one of his horrid trumps, and charged somebody, whom I could not see, but I followed it, and the next instant beheld the Collector, running without hat or gun, and the elephant after him. I fired instantly, intending to hit a vital part which is under the ear; the shot struck, but unfortunately without taking proper effect. My servant boy with a reserve gun was ten or twelve yards off, a long way at such a moment, but no more time was lost than could be avoided in exchanging guns with him. I turned back as quickly as possible, and at this instant the elephant seized the Collector and lifted him off the ground. I instantly levelled my gun, in the hope that a chance of saving him might offer. The beast turned partly round the tree, still holding the Collector by his trunk, and I saw that I had a clear shot at his head; I fired, and providentially struck him, the ball entering his left eye. He staggered, stumbled, let the Collector fall, and made off without

trampling on him. I then rushed forward, intending to discharge my second barrel, but some objects intervening between the elephant and me, he escaped, and I lost sight of him entirely. The Collector now lay apparently lifeless on the ground;—a painful sensation of dizziness nearly overpowered me; I went towards him, he moved, and assisted himself by taking hold of the tree; I then hastened and found him like one risen from the grave, pale as death; I saw blood, but it was that of the elephant, dropping from his brow.

Never shall I forget my sensations when I saw the monster rushing on him, still less those when I saw the brute's huge proboscis twine round and take him up; all this occurred in less than a minute. The Collector was of course very faint; we gave up the pursuit, and got some brandy and water which revived him, and he told us he had advanced to within six yards of the Elephant, and then fired, thinking that, as usual, it would retreat; instead of which it charged him. He then fired a second time, within three yards of the beast, and fled, but the animal gained upon him; he threw his gun at it, and tried to run round a tree, but it was too cunning, and ran round the tree also, seized him by the neck and threw him down; it then attempted to gore him: providentially the tusks struck into the earth on each side of him, and thus he was preserved. The Collector then felt the brute take him up in its trunk, he then heard my shot, and immediately found himself on the ground. He lay quietly there a second or two, then inclined himself slightly, and perceived that the elephant's back was towards him.

The elephant must have carried away at least twenty balls. Perhaps he was led to select the Collector, on account of his being dressed in bright white jean.

Four days after our hunt, a report reached us that some hunters had killed the elephant, which had continued to wander about the place where he had been wounded. It was fourteen feet long, from the insertion of the tail to the joining of the trunk to the head, and eleven feet high. My balls had struck in the neck and left eye, and the head was terribly marked with shots. C.

A LITTLE ERROR of the eye, a misguidance of the hand, a slip of the foot, a starting of a horse, a sudden mist, or a great shower, or a word undesignedly cast forth in an army, has turned the stream of victory from one side to another, and thereby disposed of empires and whole nations. No prince ever returns safe out of a battle, but may well remember how many blows and bullets have gone *by* him that might easily have gone *through* him; and by what little odd unforeseen chances death has been turned aside, which seemed in a full, ready, and direct career to have been posting to him. All which passages, if we do not acknowledge to have been guided to their respective ends and effects by the conduct of a superior and a divine Hand, we do by the same assertion cashier all providence, strip the Almighty of his noblest prerogative, and make God, not the Governor, but the mere Spectator of the world.—SOUTH.

IN JUDAEA and other eastern countries, where flocks and herds constituted the riches, and the feeding of them the chief employment, of the principal inhabitants, practices prevailed very different from aught that we have been accustomed to see. Instead of a keeper following the sheep, and employing dogs on all occasions to drive them (for the use of dogs in Judaea was to defend the flocks from the wild beasts of the forest and the field, and to give notice of their approach), the shepherd himself walked before the sheep, whether he led them to pasture, water, or the fold. The shepherd's going before the sheep, and leading them to pure waters and verdant pastures, is a very striking and beautiful representation of God's preventing grace and continual help.—SHEPHERD.

THE SPANISH ARMADA.

THE SPANISH ARMADA, so often mentioned in history, was an immense fleet and armament, collected by the haughty Philip of Spain, for the purpose of re-establishing in England the tyrannical



SPANISH GALLEON.

dominion of the Popish Hierarchy, and crushing the power of Queen Elizabeth, under whose auspicious reign the Protestant religion had been happily established in these kingdoms, and the name of England become respected by all civilized nations. The whole power of the Spanish priesthood, assisted by the Pope himself (who in person bestowed a blessing on the expedition before it sailed), was put in requisition for the purpose of raising supplies of men, money, stores, ships, and ammunition; while the kingly revenues of the South American mines, the treasures of the state, the forced contributions of the people, and the voluntary gifts of the richest families of the land, were all employed for the same purpose.

While these preparations were making on the part of the Spanish monarch, the Queen of England was not unmindful of the danger that threatened her realm. Before the Spanish armament was ready to put to sea, the famous Admiral, Sir Francis Drake, was despatched with a fleet of armed vessels, for the purpose of annoying the enemy. With his small force he daringly entered the harbour of Cadiz, and destroyed by fire no less than a hundred sail of Spanish vessels: he carried destruction along the whole line of the Spanish coast, and returned to England in triumph, bringing home a richly-laden Galleon, laden with specie, intended for the supply of the invading army.

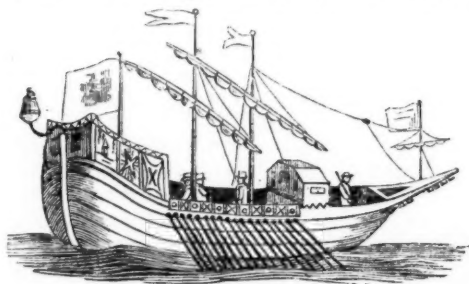
The vessels of which the Spanish fleet was composed were chiefly of two kinds. The largest, called GALLEONS, were very curiously built, having in the after part of the ship, sometimes as many as five or six decks, and appearing at a distance like huge floating castles. A smaller kind were called GALLEASSES, or GALLEYS, and were impelled by oars as well as sails.

When this mighty armament left the coast of Spain, its force consisted of a hundred and fifty vessels, many of which were greatly superior in size

to those of the English. It had on board 20,000 soldiers, 8000 sailors, and 2000 volunteers of the first families in Spain; it carried 2650 guns, and was victualled for half a year, with an immense quantity of military stores of every description. The troops on board were to be joined by 34,000 men, under the Duke of Parma, who were assembled in the neighbourhood of Nieupoort and Dunkirk, in the Netherlands; for transporting these he had, with incredible labour, provided a great number of flat-bottomed vessels.

Although the preparations for the invasion of this country, were well known, yet still when the news reached England that it was about to sail, terror and consternation seized on the inhabitants. A fleet of not above thirty ships of war, and those small in comparison, constituted the whole of the navy ready to oppose it at sea. All the commercial towns, however, were required to furnish a certain number of vessels to increase its force, and it is recorded, that the citizens of London, although only required to fit out fifteen vessels, doubled that number of their own accord. The nobility and gentry also equipped forty-three ships at their own cost. Lord Howard of Effingham was appointed Admiral, and under him served Drake, Hawkins, and Frobisher, all men of well-known courage and ability. The principal fleet was stationed at Plymouth. A smaller squadron, consisting of forty vessels, was commanded by Lord Seymour, and lay off Dunkirk, in order to intercept the Duke of Parma.

The Spanish Armada was ready in the beginning of May, but its sailing was retarded by the death of the Marquis of Santa Croce, the admiral, and that also of the vice-admiral, the Duke of Paliano. The command of the expedition was therefore given to the Duke of Medina Sidonia. Upon leaving the port of Lisbon, the Armada next day met with a violent tempest, which sunk some of the smallest of their shipping, and the fleet put back into the harbour. After some time spent in refitting, they again put to sea. By this time, they were discovered by a Scotch pirate of the name of Fleming, who was cruising in those seas, and who immediately sailed towards the English fleet, and warned the admiral of their approach. Effingham had just time to leave the harbour with his ships, when, on the 19th of July,



SPANISH GALLEY, OR GALLEAS.

1588, "they discovered the Spanish fleet with lofty turrets, like castles, in front, advancing in the form of a half moon. The wings spreading out to the length of seven miles; sailing very slowly with full sails, the wind being as it were wearied with carrying them, and the ocean groaning beneath their weight."

The English admiral considering that the Spaniards would most probably be much superior to him in close fight, in consequence of the size of their ships and the number of their troops, wisely resolved to content himself with harassing them on their voyage, and with watching attentively all the advantages that might be derived from storms, cross-winds, and

such like accidents. It was not long before he perceived a favourable opportunity of attacking the vice-admiral Recaldo. This he did in person, and displayed so much dexterity in working his ship and managing his guns, as greatly to alarm the Spaniards for the fate of their commander. From that time the Spaniards kept closer together; notwithstanding which, the English on the same day attacked one of the largest galleasses. Other Spanish ships came up to her relief, but one of the principal galleons, which had a great part of the treasure on board, was taken by Sir Francis Drake. Several other encounters happened, in all of which the English proved victorious, through the great advantage which they derived from the lightness of their ships and the dexterity of their sailors.

The Spaniards continued to advance till they came opposite to Calais, where the Duke of Medina cast anchor, and sent to the Duke of Parma, entreating him to hasten the embarkation of his troops. Farnese prepared to put his troops on board, but informed Medina, that the vessels he had provided, were only fit for the transport of men, and not for fighting; and that, therefore, unless the Armada was brought still nearer to the shore, and the coast cleared of the English and Dutch ships, it would be impossible for him to effect the embarkation of his men. The Armada accordingly advanced, and had arrived within sight of Dunkirk, with the English fleet on one side and the Dutch on the other, when a sudden calm put a stop to all its motions. About the middle of the next night a breeze sprung up, and Lord Howard having filled eight ships with sulphur, pitch, and other combustibles, set fire to them and sent them before the wind, against the different divisions of the Spanish fleet. The Spaniards beheld these ships enveloped in flame and smoke approaching them, and the darkness of the night increased the terror with which the sight filled them; a panic flew from one end of the fleet to the other; some of them weighed their anchors, but many cut their cables and suffered their ships to drive before the wind, and in this confusion running foul of each other, they crushed and damaged many of their own ships, and rendered a considerable portion of their force unfit for use. When daylight returned, they were still in great disorder, and their ships widely separated and dispersed.

The English fleet had been joined by Lord Seymour, and Lord Howard being bravely seconded by Drake and the other officers, hastened to improve the advantage he had gained, and attacked the enemy in several quarters at the same time. The engagement lasted from four in the morning till six in the evening. The Spaniards fought furiously, but their guns did very little execution against the English, while many of their own unwieldy vessels were greatly damaged, and twelve of the largest among them were either run aground, sunk, or forced to surrender.

It was now evident that the object of the Armada had failed, and the Spanish admiral prepared to return home; but as the winds were contrary for his passage through the Channel, he determined to make the circuit of the Island. The English followed them for some time, but their ammunition fell short, and the Spaniards were thus saved from further infliction by fight. In passing the Orkneys, the Armada encountered a violent storm, and most of the vessels, having lost their anchors, were scattered in every direction; some were wrecked on the Western Isles, many on the coast of Ireland; and of this formidable fleet, not one half of the ships, and a still

smaller proportion of soldiers and seamen, ever returned to Spain.

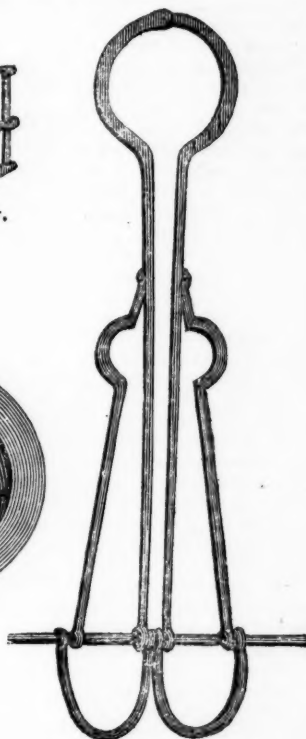
Among the stores found in the prizes, were various instruments of torture, intended to be used by the Spaniards in the persecution of the English, upon the conquest of whom they had vainly calculated. Of the three represented in the engraving, the one on the left at the top, is called a *thumb-screw*, from its being employed to compress the thumbs, when placed in the lower half of the instrument, by turning a screw. The instrument below that, is an iron collar of considerable weight, the inside covered with sharp points. The most curious is that on the right, which has been called the *Scavenger's Daughter*, and was intended to confine the body in a distressing position, by holding the neck in its upper part, the wrists in the two openings in the middle, and fixing the ancles in the lower loops. These three instruments are now in the Tower of London, but the greatest part of the spoils, appear to have been sold by auction, for the benefit of the captors.



THUMB-SCREW.



IRON COLLAR.



THE SCAVENGER'S DAUGHTER.

BRITISH ANTIQUITIES.—The history of Britain, between the emancipation of the island from the Romans and the invasion of the Saxons, is involved in much fable. It was under the dominion of many petty kings, whose names, even, are not known. Much of that interval was occupied in the contests of ambitious partisans. "The country," says Gildas, "though weak against its foreign enemies, was unconquerable in civil warfare. Kings were appointed, but they who were more cruel than the rest attained to the high dignity: with as little right or expediency as they acquired their power, they lost it; they were killed, not from any examination of justice, and men more ferocious still were elected in their place. If any happened to be more mild or virtuous than the rest, every degree of hatred and enmity was heaped upon them." This succession of tyrants is only known to us by casual intimation, and by the denunciations of Gildas. They appear, in their rest of obscurity, like the distant wood at the last refractions of the departed sun; we behold only a dark mass of gloom, in which we can trace no shapes, and distinguish no individuals.—TURNER.

LOAN FUNDS. I.

AMONG the various plans devised for the comfort and improvement of the humble classes of society, few hold out a prospect of greater advantage, or have been found practically, as far as they have hitherto been tried, to succeed better than the institution of *Loan Funds*.

The following extracts are selected from a pamphlet lately published, entitled, *Remarks on the Advantages of Loan Funds, for the Benefit of the Poor and Industrious, with Directions for their Establishment*. The writer, Mr. Trench, gives the result of his own experience as a testimony in favour of the system.

Those who are at all conversant with the wants of the poor, will immediately acknowledge that the want of a small sum, in a temporary emergency, or by way of capital, is one of the greatest evils to which they are subject.

The impossibility of obtaining the use of a small sum of money at particular moments frequently causes whole families to fall into sudden distress, from which they can never again extricate themselves, and frequently excludes an industrious man from all hope of bettering his condition when opportunities arise. And this occurs even where it is evident that the means of subsequent repayment might be produced with ease and certainty.

The rate of wages and the means of employment are seldom adequate to do more than provide the poor with the articles of daily and hourly necessity; so that, however intelligent, laborious, and conscious of the benefit of possessing a few pounds, for an unforeseen accident, or for the advancement of their condition by a small outlay, they are frequently unable to gather such an amount together. It is almost incredible what a series of sufferings and what destitution originate from this cause. "The poor man perisheth *because of his poverty*;" or, in other words, one impoverishing circumstance causes another, till he is utterly ruined, and the inability to obtain one article of comfort or necessity prevents all hope of self-advancement in external circumstances. The experience of every one who has taken any interest in the affairs of the poor will enable him to recall numerous instances illustrative of the above statement. For instance,—

A parent is often prevented from apprenticing a child to an advantageous trade, from the want of assistance towards the requisite premium and outfit.

In the repairs of dwelling houses, and other similar instances, the poor often require to hire the labour of others, at a time when a small portion of such labour would save much ultimate expense, if they had but the means of commanding it.

The artisan frequently is compelled to remain idle from being unable to obtain the price of tools and the raw materials of work, and is thus entirely disabled from pursuing his branch of trade.

Where any portion of land is held, the labourer frequently experiences much difficulty in obtaining seed for his ground, in purchasing a cow, pigs, or other profitable stock, and in effecting any improvement, or commencing operations on his small allotment.

One member of a family becomes incapacitated from work by sickness or accident. To supply comforts and necessary relief much immediate expenditure is requisite, the funds for which cannot be obtained, notwithstanding the comparative certainty that if a small sum could be borrowed for such an excellent purpose, the other members of the family, or the sick man on his recovery, would repay the money by weekly instalments.

Individuals of established good character are frequently placed in unavoidable difficulties of a momentary nature through the fault of others, as well as from a sudden and unexpected failure in the demand for labour, or of market for their provisions.

Fishermen and boatmen are sometimes entirely precluded from earning their livelihood by the want of a boat or nets, at seasons when they could derive great profit from the exercise of their calling.

In all these instances, and numerous others which might be ascertained, the well-timed application of a small sum of money by way of loan, will often improve a deserving man's condition, and often rescue the unfortunate from plunging deeper in distress, without loss to any individual whatsoever. It must however be strictly remembered that

the plan here recommended, is not intended as a resource in the last extremity of want, *merely as such*. By no means. Two other circumstances must be taken into consideration, or the object of the design will be entirely defeated,—namely, good character on the part of the borrower, and a rational expectation of his being able to secure the means of weekly re-payment by instalments.

Wherever a Loan Fund has been established*, its tendency has not only been to prevent distress, but the invariable and immediate consequence has been to promote industry, honesty, sobriety, and other moral virtues within the circle to which it extended, among that numerous class who from their situation looked forward to the possibility of wanting its aid at any future time. They see that none who are addicted to idle or vicious habits are considered worthy of receiving a loan, and there being a necessity of bringing forward a respectable person as security for each borrower, it soon is observed that such a guarantee cannot be obtained by any one who would be likely to prove a defaulter. The probability of personal loss, even if there were no other motive, will naturally prevent any person from becoming bound for the idle, the dishonest, or the drunkard, and the securities being frequently in the class of life immediately above that of the borrowers, have means of being intimately acquainted with their characters.

Neither must it be forgotten, that a most desirable link or bond is formed between all classes by the existence of such an institution. The wealthy will probably supply funds for its maintenance, and having more leisure, will take an active part in its direction and superintendence; thus showing a desire for the general welfare of their neighbourhood, and supplying several hundreds annually with a valuable species of relief. The middle classes usually give security, and thus prove their good opinion of those who deserve it. Individuals in this station will perhaps have one, two, or more poor persons whom they are willing to aid, and having such a small number to attend to, will be enabled to guard themselves against that deception in regard to the character and circumstances of borrowers, which would unavoidably be practised on those who would have some hundreds on their books at the same time. The poorer objects of pecuniary assistance have been found most grateful for the benefits conferred upon them, and in general have zealously endeavoured to show their conviction of the valuable nature of the relief by doing all in their power to fulfil the objects of the design.

* I consider it well worth while to transcribe a few remarks of one at present engaged in the superintendence of a Loan Fund. "One striking point I have noticed, not only in those who are deriving the benefit of a loan, but in those who are anticipating one, viz. an emancipation from those habits, which if continued, must have brought individuals to the necessity of applying for Parochial aid. I am fully persuaded were Loan Societies generally established, and *vigilantly looked after*, the spirit of independence would be revived, and we should see the working classes strenuous in maintaining themselves, and encouraged by a feeling of being trusted with a loan, coming from those who have a confidence in the borrower's honesty. I have received repeated thanks for this trust, and all say they prefer it to a gift. The bringing into immediate contact the Borrowers and the Lenders has a most excellent effect.

T.

THE Christian expects his reward, not as due to merit; but as connected, in a constitution of *grace*, with those acts which grace enables him to perform. The pilgrim who has been led to the gate of heaven will not knock there as worthy of being admitted; but the gate shall open to him, because he is brought thither. He who *sows*, even with *tears*, the *precious seed* of faith, hope, and love, shall *doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him*, because it is in the very nature of that seed to yield, under the kindly influence secured to it, a joyful harvest. —CECIL.

As a true friend is the sweetest contentment in the world, so in his qualities he well resembleth honey, the sweetest of all liquors. Nothing is more sweet to the taste, nothing more sharp and cleansing, when it meets with an exulcerate sore. For myself, I know that I have faults; and therefore I care not for that friend that I never smart by. For my friends, I know they cannot be faultless; and therefore they shall find me sweet in their praises and encouragements, so sharp in their censure. Either let them abide me no friend to their faults, or no friend to themselves. —BISHOP HALL.

ON THE ABUSE OF TALENT.

THERE is something in the nature of intellectual and literary iniquity, which makes it impossible to obviate its dreadful effects. If I oppress the weak by my power, by my power I can again repay him for his sufferings. If by dishonesty I rise to wealth, I can (perhaps) obliterate by liberality, when I repent, the greater part of the evil consequences of the wrong I have done. But the characters of impiety or impurity, which my hand has once traced and sent into the world, no tears can wash out, no penitence can recall. Like Pilate, what the unbeliever "has written, he has written," and he cannot, if he would, either undo the deed, or frustrate its effects.

The Spirit of the Lord may come upon the infidel writer, and bring his heart into a great and godly sorrow for his sin. He may weep in holy penitence over his past unbelief, and through a renewal of faith, be made again a partaker of the graces of redemption and sanctification, to his own eternal glory. But all his hope and assurance of salvation for his own soul in the world to come, will never be able to take away the fearful forebodings he must entertain of the incalculable evil which his sceptical and ungodly writings may have inflicted upon the souls of others in the world that now is. Let the man of genius, who has perverted his talents, be never so repentant for the abuse of his powers, and never so certain of having his pardon sealed to him through the blood of Jesus, still he will feel, and feel wretched when he thinks, that he has been guilty of a crime beyond his abilities to repair. *That* is a worm which can never die. For the invention of printing has given such strength, and swiftness, and stability, to the thoughts and words of mankind, that when once our opinions have been subjected to the operations of the press, they are withdrawn for ever from our grasp, and will work the work for which they were originally sent forth, in defiance of all our efforts to blot them out. Nay, our very efforts to recall the writings we have condemned, will but, in many instances, have a tendency to increase their circulation, by more effectually stimulating the passions of the corrupt, the interests of trade, and the curiosity of the inquisitive, to preserve and study what the author seems so anxious to destroy.

Whatever then may be the views with which these unbelieving and ungodly writers have promulgated their rebukes and blasphemies against the religion of the Son of God, whether they be deceiving or only deceived, they have done an evil which no subsequent exertions of their pen or their penitence can ever obliterate. Their souls, it is possible, may yet, if they repent and turn to the Lord in faith, be saved; but it is impossible, even if their souls be saved, that their consciences should not through life be irremediably grieved by the melancholy reflection, that they have been preparing a mental poison for which their feebleness can administer no certain antidote, and mingling a cup of bitterness for generations yet unborn. In that conviction they must die. By the anguish of that reflection must their last hours be embittered, and they must quit the earth and its inhabitants, conscious that they have sown the seeds of infidelity and eternal death, in many an unwary and unstable soul.—BENSON'S *Hulsean Lectures*.

THOMAS GRAY, THE POET.

THOMAS GRAY, like Milton, was the son of a money-scrivener in London, and was born in Cornhill, December 26, 1716. At Eton, where he received his education under the care of an uncle, he was

distinguished by his extraordinary proficiency in classical learning. It is one of the great advantages of our large public schools, that they afford to youth of talent, the opportunity, not only of forming connexions which may assist and advance them in after life, but also of improving themselves, by associating with companions of tastes and pursuits congenial with their own. It was probably to a friendship formed at Eton, that Gray referred, when he wrote the line,

He gain'd from heaven ('twas all he wish'd) a friend.

This friend was Richard West, a young man of rare talent and promise, but unfortunately early lost to the world. To him, Gray appears to have been most warmly attached, and the close and affectionate correspondence which passed between them, both in prose and verse, exhibits both the friends to great advantage, and forms by far the most interesting portion of the memoirs of Gray, published by Mason.

Another school-friend of Gray, was the celebrated Horace Walpole, son of Sir Robert Walpole, and afterwards Earl of Orford. With this young noble, Gray was appointed to take the customary tour of Europe. But travelling is proverbially a test of temper. After they had continued together for two years, Gray had some differences with his witty and volatile companion, and returned to England alone, with no other benefit from his late connexion than that of having visited some of the most interesting countries of Europe, under more favourable circumstances than, with his limited means, he could otherwise have commanded.

From this time forth, the life of Gray is the most uneventful that can be presented to the pen of a biographer. Soon after his return from the Continent, in the year 1742, he retired to Cambridge, and there principally resided till his death, in 1771, with scarcely an incident to mark the progress of years; except that, in 1756, he changed his College, from Peterhouse to Pembroke Hall (as he himself says, a sort of era, in a life so barren of events as his); and in 1768, he was appointed Regius Professor of Modern History. During this long period of time, his habits were those of a devoted student, accumulating vast stores of learning on almost every branch of human knowledge; but unfortunately, pursuing his studies in a desultory manner, and with little regard to any definite and fixed object. Indeed, the great defect in the character of Gray seems to have been a want of perseverance and firmness of purpose. He had originally intended to follow the law: and to his friend West, who was designed for the same profession, and who was shrinking from the irksomeness of legal studies, he wrote from the continent an admirable letter, urging him to steady and resolute exertions. But, in his own case, Gray proved how much easier it is to give than to practise good counsel. He himself soon abandoned his design of studying the law, and continued on to the end of his days, without any profession, in a society to which he did not conceal his dislike, and in perpetual contemplation of works which he never executed. Even his poetical productions, exquisite as they are, were few and short, and were written with long intervals of time between. In proof of his earlier projects in literature, we have a fragment of a tragedy, a fragment of a Latin poem on the origin of our ideas, a fragment of an ethical essay in verse, all of them possessing beauties which make it a matter of much regret that they were left unfinished. At a more advanced age, we find him still meditating great things; planning a history of

English poetry, an edition of Strabo, a work on Chronology—with none of which he proceeded. Even for his Professorship, he did no more than sketch an excellent plan for lectures, which, however, were never delivered or even composed.

We have dwelt on the irresolution and fastidiousness which cast a shade over the character of Gray, because they impaired the usefulness of a man who possessed the power to have been greatly serviceable to mankind. Let it not, however, be supposed, that he was without some better points in his character. He was high-minded, independent, and disinterested. Where he was attached, he was attached warmly and firmly. In his domestic relations, and especially as a son, he was most exemplary. His excellent mother had established strong claims on his gratitude and affection, by her more than ordinary maternal cares. She had saved his life in his infancy, by venturing to bleed him with her own hands, in a violent illness; and she had given him a liberal education at Eton from her own private resources, when his father had refused to support him. These kindnesses made their due impression on the heart of Gray. He is said never to have mentioned the name of his mother, to the end of his life, without a sigh. He desired to be buried by her side in his own village churchyard. And there is a passage in one of his letters to a friend, so beautiful, that we must give it at length:—

"It is long since I heard you were gone in haste into Yorkshire, on account of your mother's illness, and the same letter informed me she was recovered, otherwise, I should then have wrote to you, only to beg you would take care of her, and to inform you I had discovered a thing very little known, which is, that, in one's whole life, one can never have any more than a single mother. This you may think is obvious; yet I never discovered this (with full evidence and conviction, I mean) till it was too late. It is thirteen years ago, and seems but as yesterday, and every day I live it sinks deeper into my heart."

Besides some short summer rambles, Gray passed the time when he was absent from Cambridge, principally at Stoke, a small village in Buckinghamshire, near Windsor, where his mother and aunt were resident. It was here that he wrote the greater number of his poems. The Ode on Eton College, and the Long Story, sufficiently attest the place where they were composed. But all our readers may not know that the beautiful Elegy in a Country Churchyard also owes its birth to Stoke Church.



STOKE CHURCH.

The whole village is full of memorials of Gray. The house which he inhabited, although enlarged and

embellished, is still noted as his. Mr. Penn, to whom the principal estate of the parish belongs, has erected in his grounds, a handsome monument to the Poet. Although a new mansion has been built, some remains of the ancient seat of "the Huntingdons and Hattons" are allowed to stand; and, above all, the churchyard is just as it should be. Although hardly beyond the reach of London improvements, it is quite a country churchyard, secluded and unembellished. There are the yew trees, the grassy mounds bound down with twigs of hazel, and the rude inscriptions on the grave-stones. And the writer of this brief sketch may perhaps be permitted to add, that, in a delightful visit which he lately made to the place, he chanced to find in the churchyard "a hoary-headed swain," from whom, on asking after Gray's monument, he received an answer almost in the words of the poet:—He was no scholar, he said, and was not quite sure which of two monuments was the right one; "but you," he added, "may make it out for yourself."

Approach and read (for thou canst read) the lay,
Grav'd on the stone beneath yon aged thorn.

ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER.

MONDAY, 9th.

- 1087 William the Conqueror expired at Hermentrude, near Rouen, in Normandy.
1513 Battle of Flodden Field, in which James IV. of Scotland was defeated and slain.

TUESDAY, 10th.

- 1751 The Island of Jamaica was visited by one of those most dreadful storms so common in the West Indies, by which the Town of Kingston was totally destroyed, as well as the shipping in the harbour.

WEDNESDAY, 11th.

- 1297 Battle of Cambuskenneth, in which Cressingham, the English Viceroy, was killed; and so great was the hatred of the Scots to him, that they made girths and saddle-covers of his skin.
1703 Alexander Selkirk sailed from Kinsale, in Ireland. The narrative of this man's residence in the uninhabited Island of Juan Fernandez, furnished De Foe with the materials on which he founded the beautiful story of *Robinson Crusoe*.
1709 Battle of Malplaquet, gained by the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene.
1822 The cathedral at Ghent destroyed by fire.

THURSDAY, 12th.

- 1756 A dreadful hurricane was felt in the Island of Martinique; the mills as well as the houses were destroyed, and the vessels in the harbour wrecked: a great number of slaves perished during the storm.
1778 The Wet Docks at Hull, in Yorkshire, opened for shipping.

FRIDAY, 13th.

- 1515 The Battle of Marignan, between the Swiss, in the service of the Emperor Charles V., and the French, commanded by Francis I.; it was called emphatically the *Combat of Heroes*.
1759 General Wolfe killed at the battle of Quebec.
1806 Died, at Chiswick House, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire, the Right Hon. Charles James Fox.

SATURDAY, 14th.

The Festival of the Elevation of the Cross is still noticed in our Calendars. It was instituted A.D. 615, to commemorate the recovery of the Cross, which had been carried away by the King of Persia when he plundered Jerusalem, and was brought back in triumph by the Emperor Heraclius.

- 1435 The Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, died at Rouen, in Normandy.
1752 A violent storm was felt at Charleston, South Carolina; the sea rose ten feet above its usual level, by which the town was flooded, and all must have perished, but that it fell again as suddenly as it had risen, leaving nothing but the wrecks of houses, plantations, &c.
1812 The Russians, in order to prevent the French troops from wintering in Moscow, set fire to that ancient city, which was totally consumed. This heroic sacrifice proved the first step to the downfall of Buonaparte.

SUNDAY, 15th.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

- 1596 Cadiz taken, and the ships in the harbour destroyed, by the English fleet under the Earl of Essex.
1822 The Cathedral at Rouen, in Normandy, struck by lightning, and considerably injured.

LONDON:

JOHN WILLIAM PARKER, WEST STRAND.

PUBLISHED IN WEEKLY NUMBERS, PRICE ONE PENNY, AND IN MONTHLY PARTS, PRICE SIXPENCE, AND
Sold by all Booksellers and News-venders in the Kingdom.